

From: Christopher Palmer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust trial. The current settlement proposal does not redress the actions committed by Microsoft in the past, nor stop them committing similar actions in the future.

The provisions within the current settlement only serve to formalize the status quo. Of the remaining provisions, none will effectively prohibit Microsoft from abusing its current monopoly position in the operating system market. This is especially important in view of the seriousness of Microsoft's past transgressions.

Most important, the proposed settlement does nothing to correct Microsoft's previous actions. There are no provisions that correct or redress their previous abuses. They only prohibit the future repetition of those abuses. This, in my opinion, goes against the very foundation of the law. If a person or organization is able to commit illegal acts, benefit from those acts and then receive as a "punishment" instructions that they cannot commit those acts again, they have still benefited from their illegal acts. That is not justice, not for the victims of their abuses and not for the American people in general.

I too want to see a settlement come sooner, rather than later, but it is wrong to reach an unjust settlement just for the sake of settling.

Sincerely,
Christopher T Palmer